

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 332

By Pinion

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Richard Dallas Chesteen, Sr.,  
on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding citizens who, in their professional careers, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Dallas Chesteen, Sr., is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty-eight years as a professor of political science at the University of Tennessee-Martin; and

WHEREAS, Professor Chesteen will be taking a much deserved retirement in December of 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Chesteen served as a scholar, mentor, role model, and friend to the countless students he taught throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, the insights into the American political system that he gave in the classroom are rivaled only by the real-world example he set as a dedicated public servant; his career has been a living demonstration of the fact that democracy is not an antiquated idea to be learned in the classroom, but something that should be lived and experienced in daily life; and

WHEREAS, through his actions, Dr. Chesteen conveyed to his students that the political system is a mechanism for making the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, he gained statewide attention in his bid for the Democratic nomination for governor; in his effort to focus attention on the pressing issues facing the State, he demonstrated to his students and fellow citizens his unwavering belief that one person can make a difference; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chesteen graduated from Delta State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962 and earned his Master of Arts degree and Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chesteen has contributed his time and professional talents to fill numerous public service roles, including Obion County Commissioner, membership on the Obion County Regional Planning Commission, Obion County Commission on Aging, Northwest Tennessee Disabilities Awareness Network, Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, Northwest Tennessee Children's Services Council, Northwest Tennessee Advisory Council on Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and president of the Tennessee County Services Association; he served on the Board of Directors of Obion County Anchor House, and was also appointed by Congressmen Ed Jones and John Tanner to coordinate the Center for Civic Education Congressional District National Bicentennial Competition on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, he began his association with the University of Tennessee Center for Government Training, serving as an instructor in its training program and as an author of its manuals, particularly those on ethics and government; and

WHEREAS, at the forefront of using technology in the classroom and in studying the effects of technology on the electoral process, Dr. Chesteen has authored instructional software used with nationwide political science texts and, in recent years, has researched the problems and prospects of electronic and e-voting in state and national elections; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chesteen has received numerous awards and recognitions in honor of his outstanding teaching talents and commendable public service, including the UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award, the UTM Student Government Association's Outstanding Teacher Award, and the UTM College of Business and Public Affairs Service Award; he has been listed in the *Who's Who in American Politics* and the *Who's Who Among American Teachers*, was one of five higher education faculty/administrators statewide to receive the Love Community Service Award, and was a two-time recipient of the Unsung Hero Award from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, while Dr. Chesteen served as an advisor to the UTM newspaper, *The Pacer*, the paper was named one of the top two weekly college newspapers in the country by the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the Associated Collegiate Press; and

WHEREAS, he is a member of a variety of distinguished honors societies, including Pi Gamma Mu, Pi Sigma Alpha, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Alpha Theta; and

WHEREAS, professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Chesteen is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of forty-four years, Gloria Chesteen; together they are the proud parents of Richard "Rick" Chesteen, Jr., with wife, Penny, and Jennifer Aldridge, with husband, Brian; and

WHEREAS, he is also the proud grandfather of Drew, Angela, Josh, and Chase; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Chesteen has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, his community, and his students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. Richard Dallas Chesteen, Sr., our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, commend his exceptional service to the students at the University of Tennessee-Martin, and pay tribute to his noble contributions as a public servant dedicated to enriching the lives of his fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.